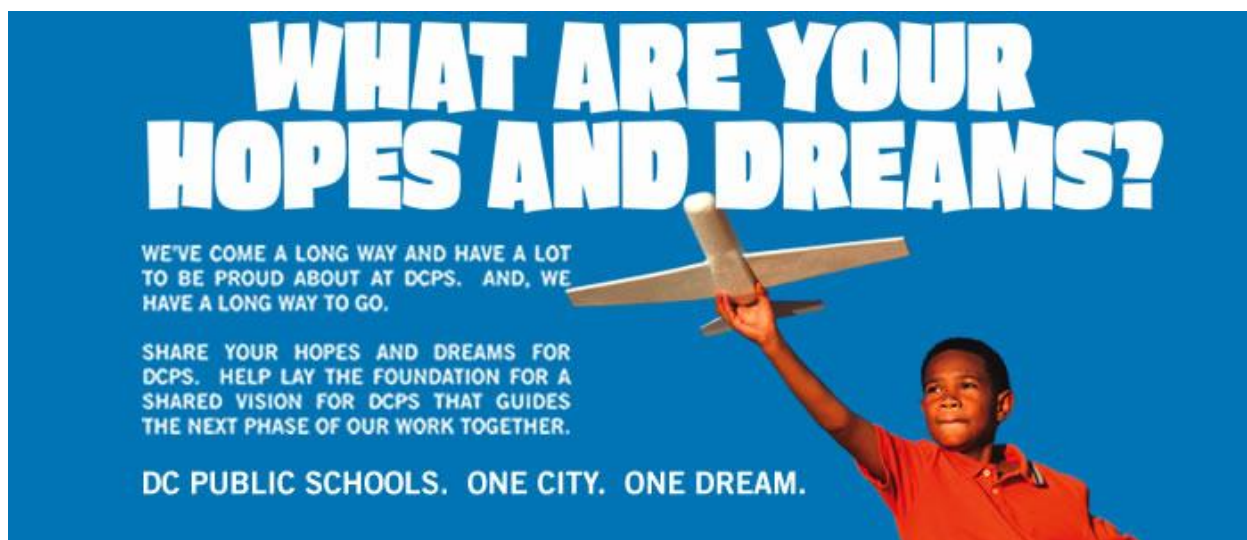




Hopes and Dreams Facilitation Guide



Thank you for participating in the Hopes & Dreams campaign. The purpose of the facilitated discussion is for you and your group to engage in a lively conversation about what's possible for DCPS.

Length: 30 minutes

Group Size: We recommend 5-20 people for discussion purposes.

Materials

- 5 large pieces of paper or whiteboard (for group notes)
- 2 colored markers for large paper/whiteboard; pens for participants
- Facilitation guide script (pages 3-11)
- Hopes & Dreams Participant Worksheet for each participant (page 2)

Preparation

- Title large paper as follows: 2011 Issues, D2, D3, The Graduates, and D5
- Print out copies of the Participant Worksheet (one for each participant – page 2)

Suggested Section Times

- Introduction: 2 minutes
- Staging: 2 minutes
- Discussion 2011: 5 minutes
- Segue: 1 minute
- Discussion 2025: 9 minutes
- Wind Down: 4 minutes
- Closing: 1 minute
- Additional Facilitation Question: 5 minutes



Hopes & Dreams Participant Worksheet

Your relationship with DCPS [Check all that apply]

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DCPS student | <input type="checkbox"/> DCPS school-based employee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DCPS parent / family member | <input type="checkbox"/> DCPS central office employee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> community member | <input type="checkbox"/> DC Government employee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> business/non-profit community member | <input type="checkbox"/> DCPS prospective parent / family member |

Your school, department or organizational affiliation: _____

Circle your Ward: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

Question 5

Time	Activity (Script)	Notes
INTRODUCTION (2 minutes)	<p>Purpose</p> <p>Today, we are here to talk about your hopes and dreams for your children, children throughout DC, and their schools.</p> <p>These hopes and dreams will contribute to the creation of a shared vision for DCPS that will guide DCPS' strategic planning and work with parents and community.</p> <p>This will be a 25- to 30-minute activity. Please put everything away -- including cell phones and computers -- except for your worksheet and pen.</p> <p>Background</p> <p>We have come a long way over the past four years, and we have a lot to be proud of.</p> <p>Our students have made dramatic gains in reading and math, 33 schools have been or are in the process of being modernized, our teachers' salaries are now number one in the region, and we have created a culture of high expectations for ourselves and our children.</p> <p>... And, we have a long way to go.</p> <p>To launch the next phase of our work together, Acting Chancellor Kaya Henderson has initiated this campaign (from May 18-June 30) to collect the hopes and dreams from parents, teachers, principals, school and central staff, students, community members, business owners, ANCs, retired persons - anybody in DC who has an interest or stake in our children and schools.</p> <p>A vision is long-term and helps us set goals and find a common cause. It is aspirational and inspirational.</p> <p>By the end of this session, we hope you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have authentically shared your hopes and dreams for your children and their schools. • Are energized and reconnected to your dreams for what's possible for children. • Feel like this was a valuable use of your time. 	<p><i>Take the time to explain the purpose of this exercise and allow the participants to get on the same page.</i></p>

Time	Activity (Script)	Notes
STAGING (1 minute)	<p>How to engage in this exercise.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relax and have fun. It is an interactive session. We will do some writing and some talking. At some point, I will even ask you to close your eyes. 2. Say what comes to mind. We come together most of the time to discuss serious issues, plan for the future, or fix things that aren't working. <p>That is not this kind of conversation. The purpose of this exercise is to share what dreams would inspire you.</p> <p>At some point you may think your dream might not be possible to achieve. That's OK; I encourage you to say it anyway. If you trust me and the process, this will make sense in the end.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. I'd also like to ask you to resist using your cell phones or laptops. It's hard, but this is a great opportunity for all us to focus on and explore this topic in a new way. 	<p><i>A key point is that this is not a problem-solving activity; it's a visioning or "what if" activity.</i></p>
DISCUSSION (4 minutes)	<p>Spring Cleaning – 2011 Issues</p> <p>We're going to begin by doing some spring cleaning or cleaning out the refrigerator – whatever image works for you. Our goal is to give your mind and imagination some space to think about the future. We do this by pushing out some of the things currently occupying our minds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is working at your school or schools across the city? • What isn't working or working as well as you would like it to? 	<p>Write all responses up on the paper or white board labeled "2011 Issues".</p> <p><i>Participants may give vague answers such as "safety" or "a curriculum."</i></p> <p><i>Ask clarifying questions, e.g., "What specifically do you mean by safety? More security guards, less fighting, etc."</i></p>

Time	Activity (Script)	Notes
QUESTION 1 (1 minute)	<p>Now I'd like you to write the answer to the following question on the paper you have been given next to Question 1.</p> <p>Of all your concerns about schools today, what one or two issues would make you happiest to see resolved?</p> <p>These can be issues we already listed on the board or ones that have just come to mind.</p>	<p>Repeat question.</p> <p><i>Option: For this and all questions, you may want to have this question pre-written ahead of time so that you can post it for participants to read.</i></p>
SEGUE (1 minute)	<p>Great. Now, I'm going to ask you to close your eyes -- or look down if that's more comfortable.</p> <p>Imagine that we are in a time machine going off into the future.</p> <p>We have been wildly successful as a school district. All of the issues you shared, and any others you didn't share, have been resolved.</p> <p>It is now the year 2025, and DC schools are the pride of the country. We are the highest-performing urban school district in the country—and have been for several years.</p> <p>DC schools have become the schools you always dreamed about.</p> <p><i>[Pause]</i></p> <p>Open your eyes.</p>	<p>Read slowly and deliberately. Don't rush this part.</p>

Time	Activity (Script)	Notes
DISCUSSION 2025 (3 minutes)	<p>Welcome to 2025! You all look surprisingly like you did in 2011- you haven't aged a bit!</p> <p>I am going to be documenting what you see here in 2025.</p> <p>First, we are going to visit your child's school, the school you work at or a school that you know. Ok, here we are at the school (in 2025). Tell me:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's it like? What do you see? What does it feel like? • What's happening in the classrooms? • What's it like for teachers, principals, staff working for DCPS? • What's it like for parents, families, community members? 	<p>Write all responses up on the paper or white board labeled "D2."</p> <p><i>If some participants begin talking about present ("2011") issues, gently remind them that they are now in 2025.</i></p> <p><i>Again, ask participants to be specific in their responses</i></p> <p><i>The following questions are for 2025 until we bring them back to 2011 at the end.</i></p>
QUESTION 2 (1 minute)	<p>Now, I'd like you to do some writing. Next to Question 2 on your paper, please list:</p> <p>What three things most impress you about this school or the school system?</p>	<p>Repeat question.</p>
QUESTION 3 (1 minute)	<p>Next to Question 3, please write the following on your paper:</p> <p>You have found the perfect school for your children or someone you care deeply about. What makes it so great?</p>	<p>Repeat question.</p>
DISCUSSION (1 minute)	<p>I'm going to do some writing. Please look up.</p> <p>Now imagine you've had a chance to visit all the schools city-wide. Tell me:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What strikes you about the schools in our city? • What strikes you about the students in our city? 	<p>Write all responses up on the paper or white board labeled "D3".</p>

Time	Activity (Script)	Notes
QUESTION 4 (1 minute)	<p>Now, you are attending a graduation. Your child or someone you care deeply about is graduating. You are beaming with pride.</p> <p>For Question 4, please write down on your paper:</p> <p>What three words best describe the person your graduate has become?</p>	Repeat question.
DISCUSSION (1 minute)	Now, let's hear what words you wrote down. What words best describe the graduates?	Write all responses up on the paper or white board labeled "The Graduates."
DISCUSSION (1 minute)	<p>For discussion purposes, tell me:</p> <p>What makes you confident that they have what it takes to be successful in life?</p>	<p>Repeat question.</p> <p>Write all responses up on the paper or white board labeled "The Graduates."</p>
QUESTION 5 (1 minute)	<p>We are about to end our trip to the future. Before we go back to 2011, please complete the following sentence next to Question 5 on your paper:</p> <p>What I most want to tell myself back in 2011 is...</p>	Repeat instructions and question.
SEGUE (<1 minute)	Now, take a deep breath and put down your pens. It's time to go back to 2011. Take a deep breath, look down for a moment. ... Welcome back to 2011.	<i>Place the 2011 issue list next to the answers for "The Graduates."</i>
DISCUSSION – Winding Down (4 minutes)	What did you get out of this exercise? What did you tell yourself before you came back to 2011? What insights or realizations did you have doing this exercise?	

Time	Activity (Script)	Notes
	<p>You just painted a picture of your dreams for our children and schools.</p> <p>What do you notice when you look back on the list of concerns that we made before you went to 2025?</p> <p>Are there any issues we can start improving today?</p> <p>What is one thing you will do differently now that you have done this exercise?</p> <p>Great work. The purpose of this exercise is to have us reorient ourselves toward our goals. When we view what we want to achieve through our “dreams” lens, we often notice some priorities change and others emerge.</p>	
DISCUSSION-Closure (1 minute)	<p>Thank you, again. We would love for you to spread the word about these exercises and encourage parents, teachers, principals, students and community members to participate. From May 16 through June 30, you will be able to download the facilitation guide and lead sessions yourself.</p> <p>These hopes and dreams will lay the foundation on which DCPS will create a vision that guides our strategic plan and our work together.</p> <p>We are collecting these hopes and dreams from thousands of DCPS stakeholders from around the city.</p> <p>Check our website (www.dcps.dc.gov) to see updates of people’s responses. We will be posting a summary report of the findings along with a document of all the responses in the fall.</p>	

Time	Activity (Script)	Notes
(1 minute)	<p>If you are interested in getting in volunteering in DC Public Schools, here are three ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Join an established group already serving in our schools like Reading Partners, Higher Achievement or Tubman All Stars 2. Fill a specific role a school has identified, like a garden helper 3. Participate in large onetime events like Beautification Day or the school's science fair <p>Sign up to learn more at http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/volunteer or email dcpsvolunteers@dc.gov.</p>	For non-DCPS staff
	<p>Optional questions: If your group would like to continue the discussion, here are some possible facilitation questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there new things that rise to the top as priorities in 2011 that didn't seem like priorities before? • Are there actions you can take help create "2025-like" graduates today? • Are there new questions about what is currently going on in our schools that you would like to know? • If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Office of Family and Public Engagement by email at dcps.communications@dc.gov or by calling 202-442-5885. 	

After your facilitated discussion is completed

1. **Collect all the participants' worksheets.** Submit them one of the following ways:

Way #1: At your local DCPS school: Place your responses in the “Hopes & Dreams” box.

Way #2: Fax them to Office of Family & Public Engagement at 202-442-5026.

Way #3: Scan them and email them as a PDF to dcps.communications@dc.gov

Way #4: Mail them to:

DC Public Schools, OFPE, 1200 First Street, NE, 12th Floor, Washington, DC 20002

2. **Submit the responses from the discussion questions (written on the large sheets of paper or whiteboard in your facilitated discussion) on the DCPS website.**

Go to <http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/hopes> and click on the “Facilitator Resources” section. You’ll find a form you can type in the responses to each discussion question.

Thank you for leading this session. We appreciate your support for DC Public Schools!

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Office of Family and Public Engagement by email at dcps.communications@dc.gov or by calling 202-442-5885.